risk-free land as it was done in the past, for several such pockets of Defence open vacant lands;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (PROF. CHAMAN LAL GUPTA): (a) to (c) The State Government of Andhra Pradesh had identified some isolated pockets of defence land in Secunderabad Cantonment for locating essential services like Andhra Pradesh State Road Transport Corporation (APSRTC), Andhra Pradesh State Electricity Board (APSEB), Bus Station and Hyderabad Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board (HMWSSB) Service in exchange of State Government equal value land. The State Government have not furnished details of land to be exchanged with Defence lands.

Army Award for present FM

3420. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the present Finance Minister has been selected for the award of a medal by the Army authorities;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the excellence for which this award is proposed to be given to a civilian who has not rendered any meritorious service in the battlefield ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (PROF. CHAMAN LAL GUPTA) : (a) to (c) The Army Headquarters had recommended for the award of a medal to the present Finance Minister. The recommendation of Army Headquarters did not find favour of the Competent Authority.

Demining of cultivable land in Rajasthan

3421. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU) : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the method used by the army to demine the cultivable land in the border areas of Rajasthan and other places;

(b) whether it is considered to be obsolete and time consuming;